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REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested. Claims 1-2, 4-19, 21, 24-30, 32-47, 49, and 52-60 are pending and under consideration, with claims 1, 28, and 29 being independent. Claims 3, 20, 22, 23, 31, 48, 50, and 51 have been cancelled. Claims 56-60 have been added.

The abstract has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection. No new matter has been added.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method of regulating user interface controls. A user identifier is received. The user identifier is associated with a grouping selected from among a plurality of groupings. A set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping is automatically provided, with the set of user interface controls including a toolbar.

Independent claim 29, as amended, is directed to a computer program residing on a computer-readable medium. The program includes instructions for causing a computer to receive a user identifier, to associate a grouping with the user identifier by selecting a grouping from among a plurality of groupings, and to automatically provide a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping. The set of user interface controls includes a toolbar.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 11-19, 21, 24-27, 29-30, 32, 34, 39-47, 49, and 52-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carpenter et al. (WO 97/34388) ("Carpenter"). Claims 2, 4, 6, 11-19, 21, and 24-27 depend from claim 1. Claims 30, 32, 34, 39-47, 49, and 52-55 depend from claim 29. Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Carpenter fails to describe or suggest receiving a user identifier, associating a grouping with the user identifier by selecting a grouping from among a plurality of groupings, and automatically providing a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping, where the set of user interface controls includes a toolbar, as recited in claims 1 and 29.

Carpenter is directed to a system for developing user interface themes tailored to a portion of the subscriber base of a computer information service. See Carpenter at page 3, ll. 18-23. As defined by Carpenter, "[a] theme in accordance with the present invention is based on a

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common user interface model and bundles a set of functionality and information content for a specific demographic group such as adults, kids, or teens." Carpenter at page 5, ll. 3-5.

In order for the theme to be implemented, Carpenter teaches that "[a] subscriber selects a theme when initiating a session with the [computer information] service." Carpenter at page 5, ll. 7-8. In the preferred embodiment of Carpenter, "[t]he subscriber may select a theme such as standard 10 or a children's theme 12 when initiating a session with the online service." Carpenter at page 6, ll. 8-9. Figure 1A shows "a Login Screen 10, 12 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention." Carpenter at page 6, ll. 7-8. The Login Screen of Figure 1A asks the subscriber "WHO ARE YOU?" and offers the subscriber a choice of "PARENT" or "KID." Carpenter at Figure 1A. The subscriber then must select the theme from the offered choices.

As such, Carpenter does not describe or suggest receiving a user identifier, associating a grouping with the user identifier by selecting a grouping from among a plurality of groupings, and automatically providing a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping, where the set of user interface controls includes a toolbar, as recited in claims 1 and 29. Instead, Carpenter requires the subscriber to select the theme when initiating a session with the online service.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, claims 1 and 29 are allowable over Carpenter, as are claims 2, 4, 6, 11-19, 21, and 24-27, each of which depends from claim 1, and claims 30, 32, 34, 39-47, 49, and 52-55, each of which depends from claim 29.

Independent claim 28 is directed to a method of producing a toolbar having user interface controls. A grouping is associated with a user identifier by selecting a grouping from a plurality of groupings. The groupings correspond to different maturity levels. A user identifier is received over a network connection. A grouping associated with the user identifier is determined. The determined grouping is used to automatically produce a toolbar having user interface controls. The user interface controls included in the toolbar are based on the grouping associated with the user identifier.

Claims 5, 7-10, 28, 33, and 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being obvious over Carpenter in view of Arcuri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,915) ("Arcuri"). Claim 28 is independent. Claims 5 and 7-10 depend from claim 1. Claims 33, and 35-38 depend from

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claim 29. Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 5 and 7-10 because Arcuri does not remedy the failure of Carpenter to describe or suggest the subject matter of claim 1. With respect to claims 33 and 35-38, Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Arcuri does not remedy the failure of Carpenter to describe or suggest the subject matter of claim 29. With respect to claim 28, Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Arcuri does not remedy the failure of Carpenter to describe or suggest associating a grouping with a user identifier by selecting a grouping from among a plurality of groupings and using the determined grouping to automatically produce a toolbar having user interface controls, as recited in claim 28.

Arcuri is directed to a system and method for customizing controls on a toolbar that allows a user to select which control elements should be displayed on the toolbar. See Arcuri at col. 1, ll. 45-50. Arcuri teaches a toolbar that "can be manipulated by a user . . . [and] can be easily updated by a user." Arcuri at col. 3, ll. 36 & 54. "[T]he user can customize the toolbar by adding controls to and removing controls from the toolbar." Arcuri at col. 7, ll. 35-36. Arcuri teaches a toolbar customized by a user, but does not teach automatically producing a toolbar, as recited in claim 28, and does not teach automatically providing a set of user interface controls, as recited in claims 1 and 29.

As such, Arcuri does not remedy the failure of Carpenter to describe or suggest the subject matter of claims 1, 28, and 29. Accordingly, for at least this reason, claims 1, 28, and 29 are allowable over Carpenter in view of Arcuri, as are claims 5 and 7-10, each of which depends from claim 1, and claims 33 and 35-38, each of which depends from claim 29.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

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Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 3, 20, 22, 23, 31, 48, 50, and 51 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 18, 19, 21, 24-26, 28, 29, 46, 47, 49, 52, and 54 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of regulating user interface controls, the method comprising:
   receiving a user identifier;
   associating a grouping with the user identifier by selecting [identifying] a grouping from among a plurality of groupings; and
   automatically providing a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping, the set of user interface controls including a toolbar.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein associating [identifying] the grouping comprises determining the grouping
   [receiving user information, and]
   based on the received user identifier. [information, determining the grouping.]

19. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [18], wherein receiving a user identifier [information] comprises receiving the user identifier [information] via a network connection.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [20], further comprising accessing user information in a database based on the user identifier.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [22], wherein [associating] the groupings comprise[s] groupings based on [identifying] user characteristics.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24 [23], wherein user characteristics comprise age.

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26. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein [associating] the grouping <u>corresponds to</u> [comprises identifying] services that the user is permitted to access.

28. (Amended) A method of producing a toolbar having user interface controls, the method comprising:

associating a grouping with a user identifier by selecting a grouping from a plurality of groupings, the grouping corresponding to different maturity levels;

receiving a user identifier over a network connection;

determining the grouping associated with the user identifier;

using the determined grouping to <u>automatically</u> produce a toolbar having user interface controls, the user interface controls included in the toolbar being based on the grouping associated with the user identifier.

29. (Amended) A computer program, residing on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

<u>receive a user identifier;</u>

<u>associate a grouping with the user identifier by selecting</u> [identify] a grouping from among a plurality of groupings; and

<u>automatically</u> provide a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping<u>, the set of user interface controls including a toolbar</u>.

46. (Amended) The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to <u>associate</u> [identify] the grouping comprise instructions for causing the computer to[:] <u>determine the grouping</u>

[receive user information, and]

based on the received user <u>identifier.</u> [information, determine the grouping.]

47. (Amended) The computer program of claim <u>29</u> [46], wherein the instructions for causing a computer to receive <u>a</u> user <u>identifier</u> [information] comprise instructions for causing a computer to receive <u>the</u> user <u>identifier</u> [information]via a network connection.

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49. (Amended) The computer program of claim 29 [46], further comprising instructions for causing the computer to access user information in a database based on the user identifier.

52. (Amended) The computer program of claim 29 [50], wherein the [instructions that cause the computer to associate the] groupings [with a user] comprise [instructions that cause the computer to identify] groupings based on user characteristics.

54. The computer program of claim 52 [50], wherein the [instructions for causing a computer to associate the] grouping corresponds to [with the user comprise instructions for causing a user to identify] services that the user is permitted to access.

Claims 56-60 have been added.

--56. The method of claim 11, wherein user maturity includes age.--

--57. The computer program of claim 39, wherein user maturity includes age.--

--58. The method of claim 1, wherein associating a grouping with the user identifier comprises associating a grouping with a user identifier as defined by a master user.--

--59. The method of claim 28, wherein associating a grouping with a user identifier comprises associating a grouping with a user identifier as defined by a master user.--

--60. The method of claim 29, wherein instructions for causing a computer to associate a grouping with the user identifier comprises the associating of a grouping with a user identifier as defined by a master user.--

In the abstract:

Regulating user interface controls includes <u>receiving a user identifier, associating a grouping with the user identifier by selecting</u> [identifying] a grouping from among different groupings and <u>automatically</u> providing a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping, <u>the set of user interface controls including a toolbar</u>. The groupings can correspond to the maturity levels (e.g., kids and teenagers) of different network service provider users.